

From: [NSW Government](#)
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: Floods Inquiry
Date: Tuesday, 21 June 2022 3:00:49 PM

Your details

Title Mrs

First name Margaret

Last name Santone

Email

Postcode 2843

Submission details

I am making this submission as A resident in a flood-affected area

Submission type I am making a personal submission

Consent to make submission public I give my consent for this submission to be made public

Share your experience or tell your story

Your story This is my personal story! I live alone! I was alone!

I live in an area of the Byron Shire called South Golden Beach ! My street was under water I couldn't get out and I could not call anyone! Not the SES, 000 or my Son! I had to rely on my neighbours who were there if I needed help!

I was in recovery from Cancer radiation treatments (30) having just completed them at Lismore Hospital one week prior to the Flood so it was trauma on top of trauma for me!

I watched the water rise and with the non stop rain and high tides it was a no win situation particularly as the huge storm water canal drains were blocked and closed to the ocean due to National Parks and wildlife interference! They have been for decades!

These canals in my area are what I call water retention cesspools of stagnant water because the water is closed off to the ocean and this created such a huge problem in my area of Ocean Shores! The whole area was under water and some lost their homes others had their homes made unliveable under any circumstances due to mould.

And people lost their personal possessions adding trauma upon trauma! I feel like we are continually fighting for our rights instead of being given help to rebuild our lives without added trauma caused by councils and insurance companies!

Improper drainage and communications lead to real dangerous situations that will leave scars forever on people's ability to cope while threats of weather conditions and other complications associated with rebuilding will be ongoing for years! Many will not be able to insure again due to cost of insurance premiums! Tradies also are taking advantage of people!

We need to be real about this event and use money wisely! If we can give \$850 million to the French for a submarine contract then we can give \$1/2 million to every resident in the Northern Rivers Shire who have suffered loss and trauma through a catastrophic storm that caused water to rise so fast that the raging rivers took everything in its path!

You need to be sympathetic in your approach as people will suffer for years and will need assurance that we have support to get through this! Some land should have never been developed in this area and no amount of excuses will change the facts that flood prone land should be left alone! It was sold at premium prices even when sold in the late 90's!

I wish I could leave but where can I go? I retired here! Not one person came to see how I was from Council or tge SES. My son rang the SES from Sydney! They could not help as they could not get into the area!

Shame on the red tape, and I am appalled at the lack of neglect of keeping drains cleared from debris due to poor thinking!

The Federal and State Government have an obligation to all people to ensure safety when approving land for housing development!

Lismore has flooded forever! I was 5 when I first heard of Lismore and floods! So The Byron Shire must have flooded to! I'm talking 1955!

Terms of Reference (optional)

The Inquiry welcomes submissions that address the particular matters identified in its [Terms of Reference](#)

1.1 Causes and contributing factors	Ineffective drainage!
1.2 Preparation and planning	Ineffective council plan and SES communications
1.3 Response to floods	Impossible fir to no communication signals
1.5 Recovery from floods	All done by myself! I was in trauma for 3 months due to my health being compromised! What insurance pays for that? Council rates should be free for a year and paid by The NSW Government for all residents!
1.6 Any other	Mths new highway stray tyres are also

matters

responsible fir this nightmare all along the NSW
northern rivers coastline from Tweed to
Woodbury and beyond!

Supporting documents or images
